Docket Number: RN02081
Preliminary Amendment

PCT application date: June 20, 2003

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-30 (Canceled)
- 31. (New) An expandable composition comprising:

A: a compound having at least one isocyanate function;

B: a polyamide; and

C: a compound having at least one acid function, optionally a carboxylic acid function.

- 32. (New) The composition according to Claim 31, wherein the polyamide is an oligomer or a polymer with a number-average molecular mass of greater than or equal to 1 000 g/mol.
- 33. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the polyamide is polyamide 6, polyamide 6,6, or blends and copolymers thereof.
- 34. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the polyamide is a linear polyamide.
- 35. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the polyamide comprises starburst or H-shaped macromolecular chains.
- 36. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the polyamide is a copolyamide of random arborescent structure.

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- 37. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the polyamide is a composition comprising a linear polyamide and a starburst and/or H-shaped and/or arborescent polyamide.
- 38. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the polyamide is a composition comprising a hyperbranched copolyamide.
- 39. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein compound A is a polyisocyanate.
- 40. (New) The composition according to Claim 39, wherein the polyisocyanate is a polyisocyanate of formula (I):

$$Y-(-N=C=O)_n$$

wherein Y is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or heterocyclic multivalent group optionally comprising hetero atoms and n is at least equal to 1.

- 41. (New) The composition according to claim 39, wherein the polyisocyanate is a diisocyanate or a triisocyanate.
- 42. (New) The composition according to claim 39, wherein the polyisocyanate is an isocyanurate.
- 43. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein compound A is other than a prepolymer or a polymer.
- 44. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein the isocyanate functions of compound A are protected with a protecting group.

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- 45. (New) The composition according to claim 44, wherein the protecting group is a lactam, optionally caprolactam.
- 46. (New) The composition according to claim 44, wherein the compound A has a deprotection temperature of the isocyanate functions greater than the melting point or softening point of polyamide B.
- 47. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein compound C is a dicarboxylic acid.
- 48. (New) The composition according to claim 31, wherein compound C is the polyamide B.
- 49. (New) The composition according to claim 31, further comprising a poreforming agent, a nucleating agent, a surfactant, a plasticizer, reinforcing fillers, matting agents, pigments, colorants, heat stabilizers, light stabilizers, bioactive agents, antisoiling agents, antistatic agents or flame retardants.
- 50. (New) A process for preparing a polyamide foam from an expandable composition as defined in claim 21, comprising the steps of:
- a) heating the composition to a temperature of at least 80°C, and
- b) stabilizing the alveolar structure obtained, and
- c) recovering the foam obtained in step b).
- 51. (New) The process according to Claim 50, wherein the temperature of step a) is greater than or equal to the melting point or softening point of the polyamide of the composition.

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- 52. (New) The process according to claim 50, wherein the temperature of step a) is greater than or equal to the deprotection temperature of the isocyanate functions of compound A.
- 53. (New) The process according to claim 50, wherein a pore-forming agent, a nucleating agent, a surfactant, a plasticizer, reinforcing fillers, matting agents, pigments, colorants, heat stabilizers, light stabilizers, bioactive agents, antisoiling agents or antistatic agents is further added to the composition in step a).
- 54. (New) The process according to Claim 50, wherein the foam obtained in step c) has a mass per unit volume of less than or equal to 0.5 g/cm³.